

Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the subject application:

1. (currently amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a recording head having a nozzle configured to eject a liquid drop of recording liquid so as to form an image on ~~[[the]]~~ a recording-medium with a liquid drop ejected from the nozzle of the recording head;

a conveyer configured to electrostatically hold and convey ~~[[the]]~~ a recording-medium by a charge provided to the conveyer; and

a cleaning device configured to clean a nozzle face of the recording head based on a tolerance threshold value of contamination of the nozzle face generated by the ejection of a liquid drop and the number of liquid drops ejected from the recording head ~~[[for]]~~ during image formation with electrostatic conveyance that causes adhesion of charged mist on the nozzle face of the recording head, and

the number of liquid drops not reflecting the number of ink drop ejections for preejection.

2. (original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the nozzle face of the recording head is cleaned according to a character printing mode.

3. (original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the nozzle face of the recording head is cleaned according to an environmental condition.

4. (original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the nozzle face of the recording head is cleaned according to a kind of the recording-medium.

5. (original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the nozzle face of the recording head is cleaned according to a kind of the recording liquid.

6. (original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the nozzle face of the recording head is not cleaned when the kind of the recording medium is a predetermined kind.

7. (currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ An image forming apparatus ~~as claimed in claim 1,~~ comprising:

a recording head having a nozzle configured to eject a liquid drop of recording liquid so as to form an image on a recording-medium with a liquid drop ejected from the nozzle of the recording head;

a conveyor configured to electrostatically hold and convey the recording-medium by a charge provided to the conveyor;

a cleaning device configured to clean a nozzle face of the recording head based on a tolerance threshold value of contamination of the nozzle face generated by the ejection of a liquid drop and the number of liquid drops ejected from the recording head for image formation;
and

a cleaning device configured to control a quantity of the charge provided to the conveyor according to at least one of an environmental condition and a kind of the recording-

medium.

8. (currently amended) (currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ An image forming apparatus ~~as claimed in claim 1~~ comprising:

a recording head having a nozzle configured to eject a liquid drop of recording liquid so as to form an image on a recording-medium with a liquid drop ejected from the nozzle of the recording head;

a conveyor configured to electrostatically hold and convey the recording-medium by a charge provided to the conveyor; and

a cleaning device configured to clean a nozzle face of the recording head based on a tolerance threshold value of contamination of the nozzle face generated by the ejection of a liquid drop and the number of liquid drops ejected from the recording head for image formation,

[[which]] wherein said image forming apparatus can form an image on both faces of the recording-medium, ~~wherein~~ and

the number of cleaning of the nozzle face of the recording head when an image is formed on a back face of the recording-medium is less than the number of cleanings when an image is formed on a front face of the recording-medium.

9. (original) An image forming apparatus comprising

a recording head having a nozzle configured to eject a liquid drop of recording liquid and
a conveyor configured to electrostatically hold and convey a recording-medium by a charge provided to the conveyer,

the image forming apparatus being capable of forming an image on both faces of the

recording-medium with a liquid drop ejected from the nozzle of the recording head, wherein

a frequency of cleaning of a nozzle face of the recording head when images are formed on both faces of the recording-medium is less than a frequency of cleaning of the nozzle face of the recording head when an image is formed on one face of the recording-medium.

10. (new) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the nozzle face of the recording head is cleaned according to a character printing mode.

11. (new) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the nozzle face of the recording head is cleaned according to an environmental condition.

12. (new) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the nozzle face of the recording head is cleaned according to a kind of the recording-medium.

13. (new) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the nozzle face of the recording head is cleaned according to a kind of the recording liquid.

14. (new) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the nozzle face of the recording head is cleaned according to a character printing mode.

15. (new) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the nozzle face of the recording head is cleaned according to a kind of the recording-medium.

16. (new) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the nozzle face of the recording head is cleaned according to a kind of the recording liquid.

17. (new) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein the nozzle face of the recording head is cleaned according to a character printing mode.

18. (new) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein the nozzle face of the recording head is cleaned according to an environmental condition.

19. (new) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein the nozzle face of the recording head is cleaned according to a kind of the recording-medium.

20. (new) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein the nozzle face of the recording head is cleaned according to a kind of the recording liquid.